

## Meet M. Mareeswari

The Mariners are selling poinsettias this holy season, in part, to raise money for a college student in India. The Mariners have chosen to sponsor M. Mareeswari, a student from Satur, the same village where the Missions Committee sponsored the digging of a well earlier this year. Mareeswari (her first initial reflects a parent's name) is from a Hindu family. She has been associated with a ministry of VisionTrust (the missions agency Jill Allgood Cawiezell works for) since 2008. Mareeswari's family suffered a tragedy in 2009 when her father died. Instead of supporting them, the neighbors in the village tried to accuse the family of wrong doing. In spite of the financial and physical difficulties, Mareeswari continued to devote herself to her studies and prayer. She desires to be an engineer teacher and a disciple of Jesus. Since becoming a Christian, she is regular in church activities and is standing as a witness for Jesus Christ in the village. She believes her family would have never come through all their struggles if she was not introduced to Jesus by the staff of VisionTrust. Now her whole family has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.



## Thank You Veterans



It is such a privilege to honor our heroes here at First Presbyterian. Thank you veterans for all you have done.

**The Fellowship Committee** would like to thank everyone who helped during the Veteran's Potluck. Your help was greatly appreciated.



We also want to thank Jim French, Heather Gadau and Vickie Carhoff for the special music they provided and Pastor Deb for the prayer.

Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share; the food was awesome!



# Glimpses of God's Grace

Here we are, once again, back at the beginning with Advent. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Both words mean 'arrival' or 'coming'. During Advent we celebrate and anticipate two arrivals. We celebrate the most obvious: Jesus' birth, the arrival of God in human form. We also anticipate Jesus Christ's return to earth in all His Kingly glory and power. Throughout Advent we remember and celebrate the original waiting for the birth of the Messiah and the ongoing waiting for the Messiah's Second Coming.



Historically, purple is the color of Advent. It is the color of penitence and fasting as well as of royalty. Purple is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week, reminding us of the important connection between Jesus' birth and death.

One way we remember Advent on Sunday mornings is through the Advent wreath, which symbolically tells the good news of God. Our circular evergreen wreath has four candles around it and one in the center. The circle reminds us of God, His eternity and His endless love, which have no beginning or end. The green reminds us of the hope we have in God, of newness, renewal and eternal life. The candles remind us of the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. They also remind us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace and love to others

The four outer candles represent the time of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent. The four Sundays symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi (last book of the Old Testament) and the birth of Christ (first four Gospels in the New Testament). The first candle (purple) is the candle of expectation or hope. The second (purple) is the candle of peace. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. Historically, it marks a shift from the more solemn tone of the first two Sundays to a more joyous atmosphere of anticipation and expectancy. The fourth (purple) is the candle of love. The center candle is white and is called the Christ Candle, traditionally lit on Christmas Eve. The central location of the Christ Candle reminds us that the Incarnation is at the heart of why we worship.

This Advent season the Worship Committee has decided to include some stories from our members in place of the actual lighting of the Advent candle and singing we traditionally have done. The candles will be lit prior to worship and the 'testimonies' will occur later in the worship service. We will still have an Advent Scripture reading as our Invitation to Worship. Our members will be sharing their awareness of the work of God in their lives. We did this a few years ago and it was inspirational and encouraging for many people. We know that most of us have a story or two we could share, but getting up in front of the church family can be a daunting task, especially when it involves something so personal and miraculous. We encourage you to be in prayer for Julie, Jim, Camille and Nancy, as they prepare to share with us in the weeks to come.

In His service,  
Deb

## Angel Tree and Cozy Tree...by Coleen Francik-Young



Here is our chance to make Christmas a little more special for needy families in our community. The gift cards are ready to be picked off the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall. Each child has a card for a shirt, pants, shoes and a wish list item. Keep the first page. On the second page, fill out your name,

phone number and put it in the basket near the tree. Each page gives you the age, gender, item requested and size to help in your shopping. Please wrap the gift, including a blank name tag. Attach the identifying first page, so that it may be easily removed and return to the church by Sunday, Dec. 14, after worship.

### **COZY TREE**

To help keep needy elementary school children warm, please decorate our Cozy Tree with hats, gloves, mittens, socks, scarves and sweats. These items will be taken to a central school location and distributed by the grade school nurse on an "as needed" basis.

# From the Trustees...

## Statement of Income & Expense October 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
<b>Balance For-</b>	<b>\$28,020.00</b>			
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge	175,325.00	141,912.00	33,413.00	80.9%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	24,287.02	-287.02	101.2%
Investment In-	21,000.00	22,252.95	-1,252.95	106.0%
PerCapita	3,000.00	2,016.88	983.12	67.2%
Misc Income		1993.28		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>251,345.00</b>	<b>192,462.13</b>	<b>58,882.87</b>	<b>76.6%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	167,195.00	135,056.88	32,138.12	80.8%
Educational Min-	4,150.00	1,671.19	2,478.81	40.3%
Fellowship	1,550.00	663.40	886.60	42.8%
Deacons	750.00	439.29	310.71	58.6%
Property	73,000.00	61,306.49	11,693.51	84.0%
Worship	4,700.00	3,112.02	1,587.98	66.2%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>251,345.00</b>	<b>202,249.27</b>	<b>49,095.73</b>	<b>80.5%</b>
<b>Differential</b>		<b>-9,787.14</b>		
Estimated Income	\$28,800.00	\$31,368.33	-2,568.33	108.9%
Mission Budget	\$26,295.00	23,738.04	2,556.96	90.3%
<b>Differential</b>		7,630.29		

**Per Capita  
Apportionment  
for 2014 is \$34.02**



## Reflections from Randy

Slipping down the back staircase at Christmas...

When my parents were first married they lived in the “maid’s quarters” of a large, old home on the end of North Street. That house was my first home and I remember it well. One of the things I remember best is that it had two staircases. The first, in the front of the house, was open and large and sweeping and displayed the gracious grandness of the home. But there was also a second interior staircase, narrow and steep, located in the back of the house. It led from my parent’s apartment (the maid’s quarters) to the kitchen. The household help used the back staircase to quietly slip down to the kitchen from their living quarters to prepare meals and the like. I remember that staircase best because it was how I managed to slip downstairs when my mother wasn’t looking to have breakfast with Aunt Grace. Perhaps you’ve seen houses like that one.

Many of us think of Christmas like the front staircase. God came in like the wealthy owner of the house, with great pomp to a weary world, accompanied by the singing of angels. I would submit to you that the opposite is more true. God really slipped down the back staircase at Christmas.

One of the greatest mysteries for us as Christians is that of the Incarnation, of God’s “enfleshment.” God laid aside the entire splendor of the Eternal Majesty who created all the worlds and everything that is, to slip down the back staircase of our human existence and take on human flesh. God acted like the servant of the house and not the owner of the house. In doing so, in taking on our human flesh, in becoming incarnate the cycle was begun that would lead to the death and resurrection of Jesus which would ensure our adoption as God’s adopted sons and daughters.

We have, at Christmas, the opportunity to see God’s action as some kind of sweet story told by Luke and framed on a Hallmark card, or we can see more deeply the great mystery that John unfolds in the first chapter of his gospel. Take time before your celebration of the great feast of Christmas to reread and recapture the mystery of the Incarnation, and to appreciate God’s slipping down the back staircase into our lives.

Warmly,  
Randy+

### **Fall Sermon Series: Neighbors in the Kingdom of God**

**Nov. 30** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: *Lessons & Music*, featuring Rev. Randy Webster on the organ

**Dec. 7** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Communion: *Neighbor Joseph* from Isaiah 11:1-9; Matthew 1:18-25.

**Dec. 14** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: *Children’s Pageant*

**Dec. 21** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: *Kingdom of God Songs* from Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:67-79.

**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve: *Moving into the Neighborhood* from John 1:1-14; Luke 2:1-7.

# Meeting our Youth

## Michael Carhoff

Michael is 9 years old and is in the third grade at North Hill Elementary School. He has two brothers, Zachary and Chance and he claims to have 8 dogs. In his free time he likes to play video games, jump out his window and during the summer sleep in late. He likes to watch horror movies with his favorite being *Halloween*. His favorite food is pizza. He likes listening to music from the '70's.



## Gabby Hall

Gabby is 11 years old and is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Warsaw Elementary School. She has 1 brother and 2 sisters and has 7 cats. In her free time she likes to play with her cats and swim. Her favorite food is pizza.

**Zach Hulett** is 12 years old and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

My favorite color is teal.

My favorite food is cherry pie.

My favorite Bible story is the Good Samaritan.

It tells me there can be good in everybody.

My favorite thing about Jesus is that He forgives anyone.

The one person I would most like to meet is Will Smith.

My favorite subject is science.

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. I like the feast and seeing family.

I like koala bears.

I like hard rock music.

When I am 30 I want to be a construction worker.



**Ashley Kunz** is 10 years old and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

My favorite color is pink.

My favorite food is ice cream.

My favorite Bible story is Jonah and the whale because Jonah finally comes to his right senses.

My favorite thing about Jesus is He died on the cross for us.

The one person I would most like to meet is Jesus because Jesus would talk to me.

My favorite hobbies are talking and collecting sea shells.

My favorite holiday is Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday.

The pet I would love to have would be a pet bird.

My favorite subject in school is social studies.

When I grow up I want to work at the animal shelter.



## Staff Reports

October, 2014

Pastor Deb Kinney

### Worship

4 Sunday worship services; 3 baptisms; 1 ordination/installation

2 celebration of life services; 1 graveside

### Christian Education

Led 10 Bible study groups

1 middle school SS class

### Connections

32 Drop-ins/appointments/calls/notes

2 hospital/home visits

17 cards sent

### Church Meetings

Special congregational meeting

Presbyterian Women

Session

Trustees

Personnel

Mission

### Deacons

Staff meeting (4)

### Church Activities/Events Attended

Knitwits

Progressive Hayrack

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

### Presbytery

PCC meeting Iowa City

Moderate CPM meeting

Mediapolis Session Moderate

Presbytery meeting

### Other

*Connections* articles & coordination

Spiritual Direction session

Worship service prep

Separate meetings with staff (10)

## Dir. Of Educational Ministries

October, 2014 Tammy Hulett

### Worship

Young Disciples (4)

### Church Meetings & Events

Meetings with Pastor (4)

Working in KidZone (4)

EMT Meeting

Bible Study (3)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck

MOMS Group (1)

Hayrack Ride

Presented bibles to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders

### Contacts

Phone-calls and e-mails: 30+

### Education

Children's Sermon Prep (4)

KidZone Prep (4)

Taught Godly Play

Taught Middle School Sunday School (3)

### Other

*Connections* articles

Working on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Working on Godly Play material

Working on Middle School Sunday School material

## Mission Update

### COME TO CHURCH WITH A CAN

CCC goal is 1200 cans for 2014.

**1106** cans have been donated this

# Church Happenings

## Carter Small Group

Will not meet on  
November 30  
December 28  
and  
January 4

**Mark your calendars**

The Yum Yum's had a great time at Peaches Café last month. The next outing for the Yum Yum's will be at The Great Wall on **January 15** at 6 p.m. For more information and reservations, call Bonnie at 753-1244 or Sue at 753-0683.

## Christmas Eve Social

Will be held after the  
Christmas Eve Service

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall  
If you would like  
to provide cookies



**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Charles Bell, Carol Brotherson, Vickie Carhoff, Dick Fischer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Marilyn Nuss, Julie Schulthies, Bonnie White, ruling elders. Ted Francis, Clerk.

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Nancy Beetner, Rex Beetner, (moderator), Cathy Brink, Adele Coulter, (secretary) Kevin Eibes, Ruth Francis, Barb Garcia, (vice moderator) Sandy Russell, Pat Saldeen, Jay & Jolene Schafer & Sandy Smith.

**GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM:** Connie Bowen (Secretary), Terri Huddleston, Larry Lazenby, Francis McAllister, (Treasurer), Kel Stensland (President).

## PW News

Please join the Presbyterian Women for our Christmas lunch at the Burlington Golf Club on Wednesday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m. All spouses and friends are invited.



Menu choices are:

- #1. Baked Cod
- #2. Roast Pork Tenderloin

Each served with fresh vegetable medley, garlic whipped potatoes, drink and bread. The cost will be \$12.00 approximately.

For reservations, please call Eva Ann Elmer at 752-2167. Please mention which entrée you would like.

There is also a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would prefer to sign up there.



December 4 ..... Candice Mullins  
..... Coleen Francik-Young  
December 5 ..... Gary Brotherson  
December 8 ..... Mike Gorman  
..... Kaylee Hulett  
December 10 ..... Nolan Simpson  
December 15 ..... JoAnn Williams  
December 17 ..... Norma Hanson  
December 18 ..... John McAllister  
December 22 ..... Patty French  
..... Holly Mullins  
December 28 ..... Kay West  
December 29 ..... Bernie Garcia  
..... Ken Newton  
December 31 ..... Brooke Byars

**Minutes of the Stated Meeting of Session  
October 20, 2014  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa**

A Stated Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa was held in the church parlor on October 20, 2014. Moderator **Rev. Debra Kinney** opened the meeting at 6:57 p.m. with devotions on what we believe from *The Book of Confessions*. Following devotions the business meeting opened with prayer by **Rev. Deb Kinney**.

A quorum was present.

Present: Moderator Debra Kinney, Clerk Ted Francis and Elders Carol Brotherson, Vickie Carhoff, Dick Fischer, Jim French, Marilyn Nuss, Julie Schulthies, Bonnie White  
Excused: Charles Bell

A motion to approve the agenda with additions was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from the session meeting on September 15, 2014 was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion to receive the staff reports of **Rev. Debra Kinney** and **Tammy Hulett** and reports from Session Committees, Trustees and the Financial Report was seconded and approved by voice vote.

**Report of the Clerk**

A motion to re-affirm the following motions electronically approved was seconded and approved by voice vote:

Facilities use request by the family of **Linda Hale** to have refreshments including wine in Fellowship Hall following her Celebration of Life service on Sunday, October 19, 2014.

Approve a Special-Called Congregational Meeting following worship on October 5, 2014 to receive a nomination from the Nominating Committee and elect a member of the Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of **Jean Miller** (2016). There will be no other business conducted at this meeting.

A motion to approve the baptism of **Nathan David Sattler** and **Hanna Jo Sattler**, children of **Jon Sattler** and **Karlee Webster**, during worship on Sunday, October 19, 2014 was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion to approve a facilities use request for the wedding of **Jennifer Rich** and **Marc Seibrecht** on August 1, 2015 was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion to accept with regrets the resignation of **Deb Scott** as elder was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion to approve a request by **Randy Webster** to use the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for a Treble Clef Club meeting on November 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. was seconded and approved by voice vote. He will be performing several organ works for the program that was originally scheduled for Messiah Lutheran Church, but he requested to hold it at First Presbyterian Church as a tribute to the memory of **Linda Hale**.

**Brooke Taylor Sattler**, daughter of **Joe Sattler** and **Kelly Burroughs** was baptized during worship on October 19, 2014. **Nathan David Sattler** and **Hanna Jo Sattler**, children of **Jon Sattler** and **Karlee Webster**, were baptized during worship on Sunday, October 19, 2014.

The clerk reported that records for First Presbyterian Church from 1848-1971, Westminster Presbyterian



Church records from 1954-1971, and Faith Presbyterian Church records through 1981 are all on microfilm. The clerk will review the other church records and documents in storage for either donation to the Presbyterian Historical Society and/or future digitizing to preserve. Since most of the church records have been preserved on microfilm the clerk was directed to delay applying for a grant to subsidize the cost of digitizing the remaining church records until after the items in storage are reviewed and the need, if any, is determined.

A motion to receive the clerk's report was seconded and approved by voice vote.

### **Worshipful Work**

The session reviewed the recommended changes from the Personnel Committee to the job description for the Director of Educational Ministries. The recommended changes were approved by voice vote.

The session reviewed the proposed job description from the Personnel Committee for the Minister of Faith and Worship. The job description was approved as amended by voice vote.

The session approved by voice vote the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to hire **Rev. Randy Webster** to the position of Minister of Faith and Worship.

**Gifts and Memorials:** A recommendation to use \$856 of undesignated Memorial Funds for additional upgrades to the sound system by Sound Foundation from Iowa City was approved by voice vote.

**Personnel:** The session reviewed the proposed non-ordained staff salaries for 2015.

**Worship:** The session approved by voice vote the following communion dates for 2015: January 4, February 1, February 18 (Ash Wednesday), March 1, April 2 (Maundy Thursday), April 5 (Easter), May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6, December 24 (Christmas Eve). The sanctuary will have a nativity and Christmas tree this year during Advent. Poinsettias will be sold again this year. There is a need to identify a group to receive the profit from the sales. Members are asked to consider submitting a personal faith story or experience that would be shared on a Sunday during Advent which might provide encouragement or inspiration to others.

**Fellowship:** The Veteran's Day potluck will be after worship on November 9, 2014. A Christmas Eve social is planned and the All-Church Birthday Party will be held on March 15, 2015.

**Mission:** Current projects include the Shoe Box and Backpack ministries.

**Nominating:** The committee will seek a nominee to replace an elder who resigned and begin to work on the nominees for the 2015 Nominating Committee. Session members are to consider a name to be the non-serving elder representative on the committee.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved by voice vote.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23 p.m.




Respectfully submitted,

Ted Francis, Clerk of Session

Rev. Debra Kinney, Moderator



# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Trustees Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Handbells	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Poinsettia delivery	<b>6</b> Culver-Stockton trip/Justin Randall basketball
<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM *DVS Bake Sale	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Mission Committee	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits 11:30 AM PW Luncheon@ BGC 6:00 PM Handbells	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Bell Ringing for Salvation Army	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Angel Tree gift deadline 10:00 AM Worship/Handbells	<b>15</b> Connections Deadline 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Deacons	<b>17</b> 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>18</b> 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	<b>19</b> Office Closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> No Bible Study 12:00 PM Office closes 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM Christmas Social	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> Office Closed 	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> No Carter Group 10:00 AM Worship	<b>29</b> Office Closed 	<b>30</b> Office Closed 	<b>31</b> No Bible Study Office Closed 	<b>*DVS Bake Sale -Dec.7 after worship (benefits the Domestic Violence Shelter)</b>		

First Presbyterian Church  
321 N 5th Street  
Burlington, IA 52601